



Appendix A.

Sustainable Harvest Calculation Policies

These policies were adopted by the Board of Natural Resources on September 8, 2004, when making the sustainable harvest calculation decisions.

POLICY MANUAL

Department of Natural Resources

Date: September 8, 2004

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**PO14-B CIRCUMSTANCES TRIGGERING THE NEED FOR A
RECALCULATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE HARVEST
CALCULATION**

DISCUSSION

State law requires that the Department shall manage the state-owned lands under its jurisdiction, which are primarily valuable for the purpose of growing forest crops on a sustained yield basis. “To this end, the Department shall periodically adjust the acreages designated for inclusion in the sustained yield management program and calculate a sustainable harvest level.” (RCW 79.10.320) State law also defines sustainable harvest level as, “Sustainable harvest level means the volume of timber scheduled for sale from state-owned lands during a planning decade as calculated by the department and approved by the board.” (RCW 79.10.300(5))

The legislature envisioned that the sustainable harvest level is likely to need adjustment from time to time, based on the quantity, quality, growth, and availability of the timber resource on state lands. At the time the statute was enacted, the suitable time period was thought to be one decade, with the average annual sustainable harvest level remaining constant during the decade.

Currently, the factors affecting a stable long-term sustainable harvest calculation remain dynamic. Regulatory requirements are in flux, and information about the resource base continues to improve. In addition, new more powerful and flexible computer models have emerged, making it feasible to adjust the harvest level as circumstance changes. At the same time, the fundamental trust obligations and statutory requirements continue to be the foundation of policy.

POLICY

The department, with board approval, will recalculate the statewide sustainable harvest level, for board adoption no less frequently than every ten years.

The department will adjust the calculation and recommend adoption by the board when the department determines changing circumstances within the planning decade suggest that an adjusted harvest level would be prudent. Such circumstances may include major changes in legal requirements, significant new policy direction from the board, new information about the resource base available for harvest, or changes in technology.

Approved: September 8, 2004

Approved By: /S/
Doug Sutherland
Commissioner of Public Lands

SEE ALSO

RCW 79.10.300 Land Management Authorities and Policies – Definitions

RCW 77.10.320 Land Management Authorities and Policies – Sustainable Harvest Program

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**Cancels: PO14-004 Sustainable Even-Flow Timber Harvest, Dated: July 1992
PO14-005 Harvest Levels Based on Volume, Dated: July 1992
PO14-006 Western Washington Ownership Groups, Dated: July 1992**

**PO14-B DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE SUSTAINABLE
HARVEST CALCULATION**

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